

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W
-----130912 072254Z /21

R 071013Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1447
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 6260

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, RO
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF HEALTH REPLACED

1. OFFICIAL RCP DAILY SCINTEIA SEPTEMBER 7 PUBLISHED ONE SENTENCE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT NICOLAE NICOLAESCU HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM HIS DUTIES AS MINISTER OF HEALTH; NO REPLACEMENT WAS NAMED.

2. COMMENT: NICOLAESCU, WHO HAS BEEN HEALTH MINISTER SINCE JUNE 1976, IS WIDELY CONSIDERED A NON-ENTITY BUT WHO HAD A MANDATE TO SUPERVISE THE DRAFTING AND LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT OF A NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HEALTH LAW. WITH APPROVAL OF THIS LAW JULY 6 BY GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (GNA), CHANGE OF MINISTERS HAS BEEN GENERALLY ANTICIPATED. THE EVENTUAL NEW MINISTER PRESUMABLY WILL BE CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING THIS COMPLEX LAW, A TASK WHICH WILL
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REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL SKILLS AS WELL AS WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF HEALTH CARE. ACCORDING TO BUCHAREST RUMOR MILL, LEADING CONTENDER FOR JOB IS IOAN POP D. POPA, A HIGHLY REGARDED PHYSICIAN AND HEART SPECIALIST WHO IS ALSO A PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELLOR, CHAIRMAN OF THE GNA COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND LABOR, AND ONE OF CEAUSESCU'S PERSONAL DOCTORS WHO

ACCOMPANIED HIM ON STATE VISIT TO UNITED STATES LAST
APRIL.

3. WE SEE NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER BETWEEN THIS GOVERNMENT
CHANGE AND CURRENT TURMOIL IN SECURITY SERVICES, MOST
RECENT EVIDENCE OF WHICH WAS REPLACEMENT OF MINISTER OF
INTERNAL AFFAIRS PREVIOUS DAY (BUCHAREST 6123). HOWEVER,
MAKING NONSECURITY-RELATED GOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL SHIFTS
AT THIS TIME PROVIDES GOR WITH OPPORTUNITY TO PORTRAY ALL
CHANGES AS NOTHING MORE THAN NORMAL "ROTATION OF CADRE,"
WHICH THEY CLEARLY ARE NOT.
AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEALTH, TENURE OF OFFICE, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BUCHAR06260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-0269
Format: TEL
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780990/aaaacwrn.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67bdde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1511495
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER OF HEALTH REPLACED
TAGS: PGOV, RO, (NICOLAESCU, NICOLAE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67bdde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014